

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,335,524 to Sakane.

The claims have been amended. New claims 8-10 have been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 1 has been cancelled. New claims 8-10 have been added and claims 2-7 have been amended to improve clarity. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the problems. It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims and new claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102b

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,335,524 to Sakane.

Sakane describes a washing machine that controls rotational speed of its drum in a wash step "so as to be varied in each period of its rotation in a range at least including a speed at which clothes accommodated in the drum are caused to fall down from the inner peripheral wall surface of the drum against centrifugal forces." See Sakane, Abstract.

Independent claim 1 has been cancelled. New independent claim 8 has been added. Claim 8 recites a method of controlling a laundry treatment machine including

measuring a load parameter using a measuring device, the load parameter being a function of the laundry disposed in the laundry treatment machine;

setting an upper and a lower limit of a rotational speed of a drum of the laundry treatment machine as a function of the load parameter; and

rotating the drum with a drive motor according to the set upper and lower limits.

Support for claim 8 may be found, for example, in cancelled claim 1 and in the Specification at page 5, line 29, to page 6, line 21. It is respectfully submitted that Sakane does not teach or suggest setting upper and lower limits of a rotational speed of the drum as a function of a load parameter that is a function of the laundry disposed in the machine, as recited in claim 8. In contrast, Sakane varies the rotational speed of the drum 4 between values n_a and n_b based on a reference signal S_n . Values n_a and n_b are determined as a function of gravity g and the radius r of drum 4 using equation (3). See Sakane, col. 5, lines 9-11, and Fig. 3. Values n_a and n_b are not set as a function of a measured load parameter, as recited in claim 8. Because Sakane is missing at least the "setting an upper and a lower limit of a rotational speed of a drum of the laundry treatment machine as a function of a load parameter" feature of independent claim 8, it cannot anticipate this claim or any of its dependent claims.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Sakane is respectfully requested.

New claims

New claims 8-10 have been added. Support for claims 8-10 may be found, for example, in cancelled claim 1 and in the Specification at page 5, line 29, to page 6, line 21. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 8-10 are patentable over the cited reference.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Dated: March 29, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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